

# **Performance Measures Fourth Judicial District**

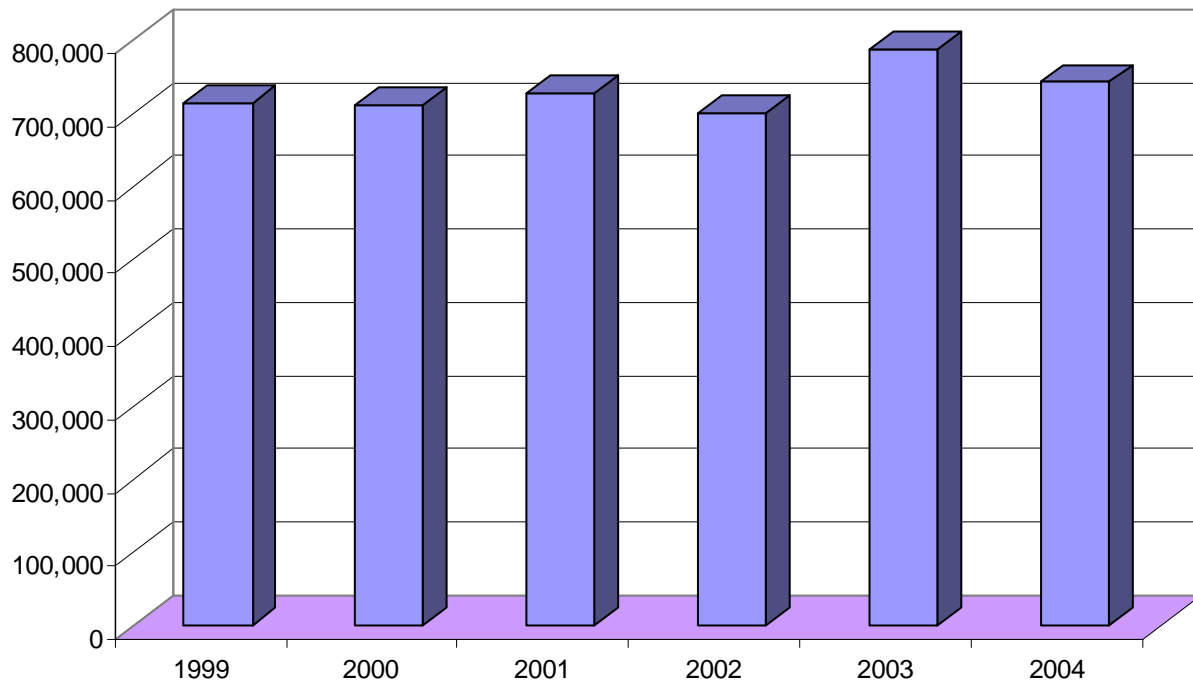
## **Court-wide View**



Performance Measures  
Fourth Judicial District

**Background Information—New Cases Filed**

Total New Cases Filed 1999- 2004

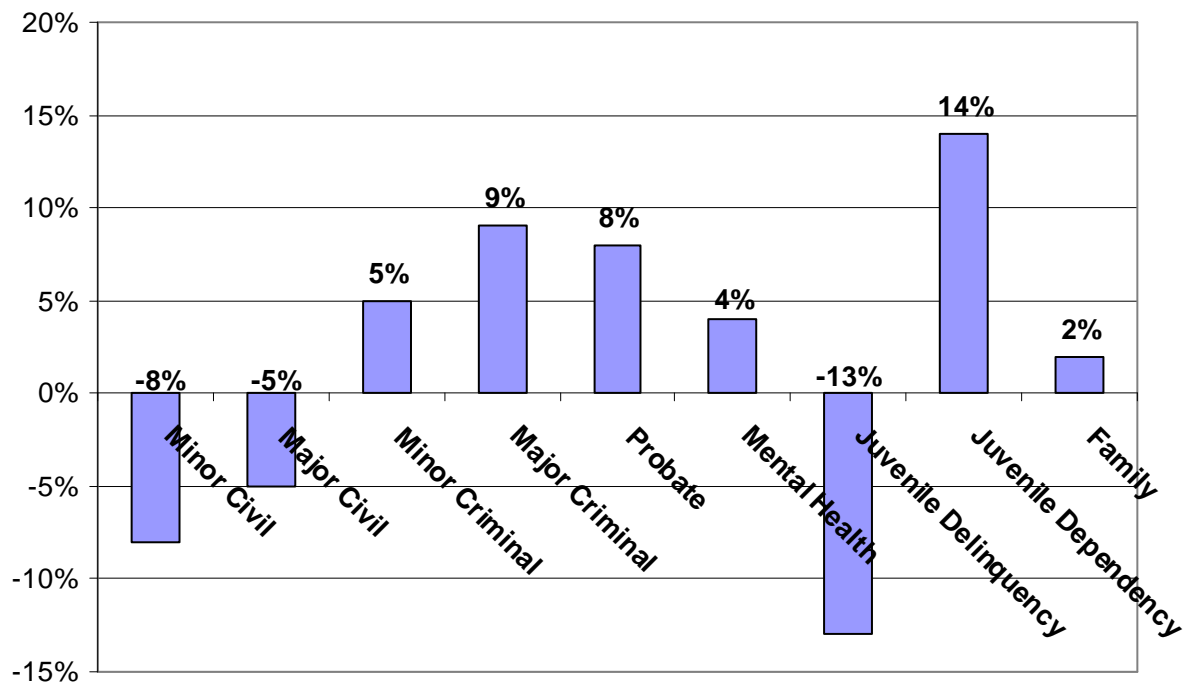


There has been a 4% increase in new cases filed in the Fourth Judicial District since 1999 and a 6% decrease from last year.

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**Trend in New Case Filings across different  
Divisions of the Court**

Overall Trend in New Cases Since 1999



**Minor and Major Criminal cases have increased.**

**Probate and Mental Health cases have increased.**

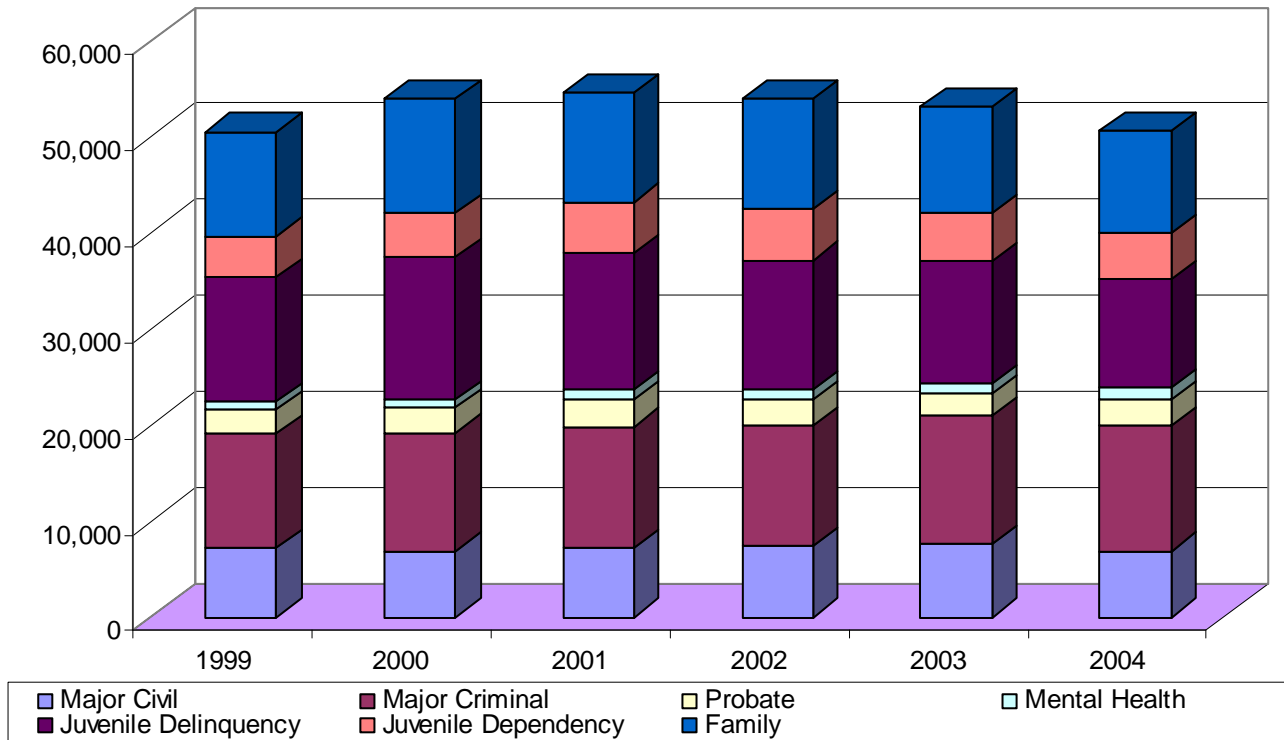
**Family cases have increased.**

**Juvenile Dependency Cases have increased as well.**

**Civil areas and Juvenile Delinquency cases have decreased since 1999.**

## New Case Filings broken down by Major Case Types

New Major Cases



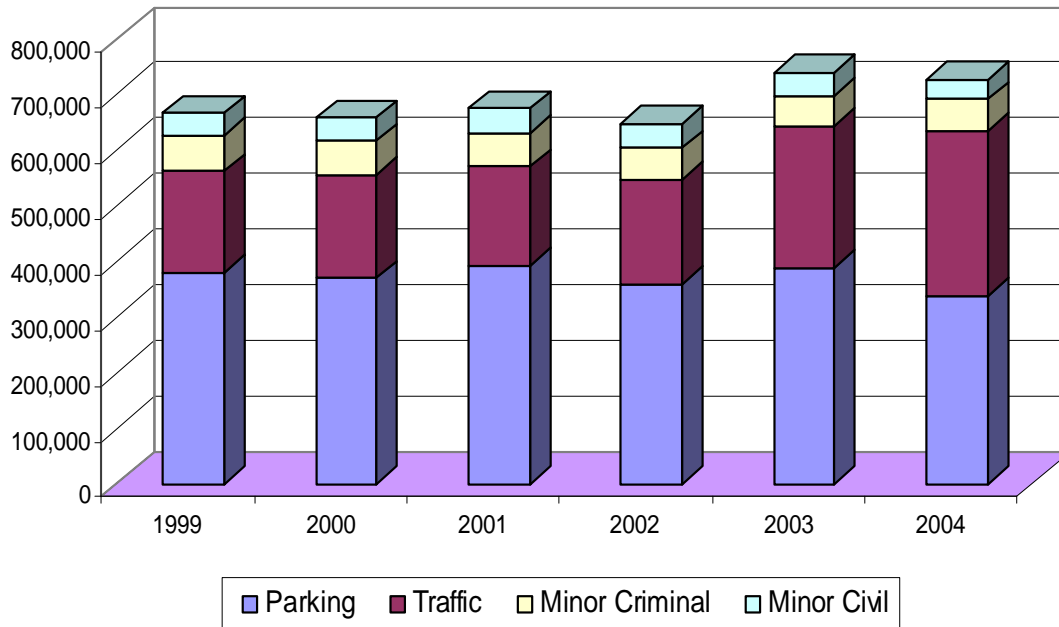
Major Cases are the most complicated case types in the Fourth Judicial District and they are handled by Judges and Referees. These cases have remained relatively stable since 1999 (.3% increase).

Major Civil includes personal injury, contract, malpractice, etc.  
Major Criminal includes all felonies and gross misdemeanors.  
Probate includes trust, conservatorship, guardianships, etc.  
Mental Health includes commitment for mental health purposes.  
Family includes dissolution of marriages, support, paternity, and domestic abuse.  
Juvenile Delinquency includes felony and non-felony delinquency cases.  
Juvenile Dependency includes termination of parental rights, dependency neglect cases, runaway and truancy cases.

## Performance Measures Fourth Judicial District

### New Case Filings broken down by Minor Case Types

New Minor Cases



Minor Cases (as defined by the Supreme Court) are those cases that typically take less time to process and have less complicated case law. These cases have increased 10% since 1999. It is not meant to imply that these offenses are less important to our communities.

**Minor Civil** cases include harassment, conciliation, unlawful detainers, default judgment and implied consent. These cases are handled by judges and referees.

**Minor Criminal** cases include simple assault, first time driving while intoxicated, parking, traffic and other types of less serious criminal offenses such as disorderly conduct and trespassing. Since the vast majority of these cases are parking and traffic, they are separated from the remaining minor criminal cases. Most parking and traffic offenses are payable citations and can be resolved by sending in the money owed. If these payable citations are contested, Hearing Officers handle most of them. A new minor traffic calendar has been created for those cases unresolved by Hearing Officers and it is staffed by a referee. The remaining cases are handled in criminal court by judges. These types of cases include simple assault, domestic assault, DWI and other minor criminal offenses (disorderly conduct, trespassing, theft, shoplifting, tampering with motor vehicles, prostitution, etc.).

## Performance Measures Fourth Judicial District



### **Customer**— *Provide fair & equal treatment, Access to justice*

- ◆ Is the court perceived as fair to litigants and other constituents?
- ◆ Do litigants perceive they are being listened to?
- ◆ Do litigants understand the orders given by the court?
- ◆ Do litigants perceive that cases are resolved in a timely manner?

Is the court perceived as fair to litigants and other constituents?	
Attorneys Assessing Our Bench	7.42
Justice Partners Assessing Our Bench	7.50
Court Staff Assessing Our Bench	7.62
Do litigants perceive they are being listened to?	
Justice Partners Assessing Our Bench	7.75
Court Staff Assessing Our Bench	7.35
Do litigants understand the orders given by the court?	
Attorneys Assessing Our Bench	7.93
Justice Partners Assessing Our Bench	8.04
Court Staff Assessing Our Bench	8.02
Do litigants perceive that cases are resolved in a timely manner?	
Attorneys Assessing Our Bench	7.36
Justice Partners Assessing Our Bench	7.46
Court Staff Assessing Our Bench	7.50

**On a scale of 1 to 9,  
where  
1=strongly disagree  
and 9=strongly agree.**

A random sample of attorneys who had appeared in front of each of our judges were sent surveys to as part of the Fourth District's continuing Judicial Development. In addition, internal justice partners (such as Probation, Sheriff's Office, Police Officers, Court Psychologists) and court staff members were surveyed about our bench as well.

Attorneys sample=1,259

Justice partners=141

Court Staff=423

We have conducted other Fairness Research within different courts and those results are reported in each Operational Area (Civil Court, Criminal Court, Juvenile Court, Family Court and Probate/Mental Health Court) of this report.

**Also see our website:**

<http://www.courts.state.mn.us/districts/fourth/Measurements/research/researchhome.htm>

## Performance Measures Fourth Judicial District



### FORMAT FOR THE PERFORMANCE MEASURES REPORT

Each Operational Court (Civil Court, Criminal Court, Juvenile Court, Family Court, Probate/Mental Health Court) will have the following information:

**Background:** This area will show the filings or new cases for each year (from 2004 Weighted Caseload data at MN Supreme Court).

**Customer:** This area will show the results of our customer surveys for the following four topics (4th District Fairness Studies)

**Is the court perceived as fair?**

**Is the court perceived as listening to the court users?**

**Do litigants understand the orders given by the court?**

**Do litigants perceive that cases are resolved in a timely manner?**

**Process:** This area will show how each court is doing on 5 different measures

**Clearance Rate**—MN Supreme Court

**Age of Pending**—4th District data management reports

**Percent Pending**— MN Supreme Court

**Average Age of Disposed Cases**—4th District data management reports

**Average Number of Appearances**— 4th District data management reports

Other areas of the Court will have information about the type of work that is done in their area and how it relates to our vision and mission as a Court. These areas may not have specific Process performance measures. These areas include:

**Scheduling Unit** (schedule interpreters, court reporters and judicial officers)

**Jury Office** (summon jurors to handle jury trials)

**Psychological Services** (forensic psychologists that conduct Court ordered examinations)

**Self Help Service Center** (provides assistance for self represented litigants)

**Domestic Abuse Service Center** (provides assistance to domestic abuse victims)

**Guardian Ad Litem Office** (assigns Guardians Ad Litem as advocates for children in Court)

**Public Service Level** (allows filing of civil, family and probate documents on the skyway)

**Hearing Office and Traffic /Violations Bureau** (citizens disputing citations can request a hearing in this office or go to the TVB to pay a ticket in person)

**Human Resources** (Fourth Judicial District unit for hiring and representation of employees)